

[18 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

- (ii) should have put in three years continuous service;
- (iii) should have successfully undergone the junior cadre course.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from SSB and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Terrorist attack on Sikhs in J and K

†3549. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The Government reaction towards the newsitem under the caption "Srinagar Main Atankbadiyon Ne Aath Sikho Ko Goliyo Se Bhoona", appeared in Dainik Jagran dated 4th February, 2001;

(b) the measures Government propose to take in order to tackle such a situation;

(c) whether Government are considering to observe strict vigilance in view of this serious and heinous incident; and

(d) if so, the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) On February 03, 2001 terrorists shot dead six Sikh and injured five others in Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar.

(b) to (d) Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killings of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government has taken various preventive/confidence-building measures which *inter-alia* include;

- (i) Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponry and communication equipment;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages;
- (iii) Increased frequency of patrolling, by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;
- (iv) Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered populations. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of appropriate strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists. Government of India continues to provide support to the State Government and the security forces in their efforts.

Activities of Militant Organisations in Assam

3550. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Assam Tea majors funding ULFA and NDFB, say police" appearing in the Asian Age dated 18th March, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the newsitem so as to eliminate the activities of the militant organisations in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been sensitized for taking action against such militant outfits. Tea Companies have also been advised not to pay money to the militant organizations. The Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, *inter-alia*,